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| **Your Zodiac Sign**  **Lesson Plan - By Kenneth Beare, ESL teacher**  **This exercise is based on the Zodiac resource page at Wikipedia**  Antonio Saraceno –Anjin Group (Sloop2desc) |

Whether students believe in the Zodiac or not, working with Zodiac sign descriptions provides a great opportunity to **widen their vocabulary knowledge about personality and characteristic adjectives**. Use these Zodiac signs to get students talking about themselves and their friends. You'll all have a good laugh, and students will improve their active vocabulary beyond the standard *happy, funny, sad, and lucky*.

**Aim:** Improve personality adjectives vocabulary

**Activity:** Reflections on yourself and a friend

**Level:** Upper Intermediate

**Outline:**

* Break the ice with a little joke about one of your funny screw-ups. Use lots of descriptive adjectives to show how this situation reflects your personality. If you are shy - which I can't imagine - you can talk about a celebrity.
* Ask students to provide further descriptions of your personality. Make sure to write these up on the blackboard. You can also ask students to provide an example of each trait they name.
* Make sure the students have access to a good dictionary.
* Cut the Zodiac sheet up into strips and pass them out based on their birth dates.
* Ask students to find their own Zodiac sign and read through the description making sure they understand every descriptive adjective or phrase provided on the sheet.
* Once students understand the adjectives, they are asked (on the worksheet) to choose three traits they agree with and two they disagree with. Students should provide a reason and/or an example for each of these chosen traits.
* Have students share their descriptive adjectives with each other in a group discussion, citing the reasons why they agree or disagree with their chosen traits.
* Ask students to pair up, this time distribute strips based on the birthday of the student's partner.

**Aries / March 21 - April 20**

**Aries** is the first sign of the Zodiac and associated with fresh vigor and new beginnings. Individuals born under this sign are said to have a enthusiastic, adventurous, aggressive, humorous, passionate, and pioneering character but one which is also prone to selfishness, boastfulness, intolerance, impulsiveness, and impatience.

***Positive***

Adventurous and energetic  
Pioneering and courageous  
Enthusiastic and confident  
Dynamic and quick-witted

***Negative***

Selfish and quick-tempered  
Impulsive and impatient  
Foolhardy and daredevil

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Taurus / April 21 - May 20**

Taurus is the second sign of the Zodiac and associated with material pleasure. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a calm, patient, reliable, loyal, affectionate, sensuous, ambitious, and determined character, but one which is also prone to hedonism, laziness, inflexibility, jealousy, and antipathy. In terms of anatomy,

***Positive***

Patient and reliable  
Warmhearted and loving  
Persistent and determined  
Placid and security loving

***Negative***

Jealous and possessive  
Resentful and inflexible  
Self-indulgent and greedy

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Gemini / May 21 - June 21**

Gemini is the third sign of the Zodiac and associated with youth and versatility. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a sociable, fun-loving, versatile, lively, communicative, liberal, intelligent, mentally active and friendly character but one which is also prone to moodiness, inconsistency, superficiality, restlessness and laziness.

***Positive***

Adaptable and versatile  
Communicative and witty  
Intellectual and eloquent  
Youthful and lively

***Negative***

Nervous and tense  
Superficial and inconsistent  
Cunning and inquisitive

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Cancer / June 22 - July 22**

Cancer is the fourth sign of the Zodiac and associated with family and domesticity. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a kind, emotional, romantic, imaginative, sympathetic, nurturing, and intuitive character, but one which is also prone to changeability, moodiness, hypersensitivity, depression, and clinginess.

***Positive***

Emotional and loving  
Intuitive and imaginative  
Shrewd and cautious  
Protective and sympathetic

***Negative***

Changeable and moody  
Overemotional and touchy  
Clinging and unable to let go

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Leo / July 23 - August 22**

Leo is the fifth sign of the Zodiac and is associated with the keywords magnanimous, generous, hospitable, caring, warm, authoritative, active and open. Leos are typically pictured as very dignified and regal. They are hard-working, ambitious and enthusiastic, however they are prone to laziness and can often take "the easy way out." They are known to be exuberant, extroverted, generous with a natural dramatic flair and very creative. They are typically very self-assured, and love taking center-stage in whatever arena they are in.

***Positive***

Generous and warmhearted  
Creative and enthusiastic  
Broad-minded and expansive  
Faithful and loving

***Negative***

Pompous and patronizing  
Bossy and interfering  
Dogmatic and intolerant

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Virgo / August 23 - September 22**

Virgo is the sixth sign of the Zodiac, a set of astrological signs, and associated with purity and service. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a diligent, analytical, self-sufficient, controlled, orderly, and modest character but one which is also prone to fussiness, perfectionism, harsh criticism, coldness, and hypochondria.

***Positive***

Modest and shy   
Meticulous and reliable   
Practical and diligent   
Intelligent and analytical

***Negative***

Fussy and a worrier   
Overcritical and harsh   
Perfectionist and conservative

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Libra/ September 23 - October 22**

Libra is the seventh sign of the Zodiac and associated with justice. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a pleasant, articulate, charming, charismatic, fair, artistic, social, refined, diplomatic, even-tempered and self-sufficient character, but on the negative side, are also thought to be indecisive, flirtatious, extravagant, lazy, analytical, frivolous, impatient, envious, shallow, aloof, and quarrelsome.

***Positive***

Diplomatic and urbane   
Romantic and charming   
Easygoing and sociable   
Idealistic and peaceable

***Negative***

Indecisive and changeable   
Gullible and easily influenced  
Flirtatious and self-indulgent

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Scorpio / October 23 - November 21**

Scorpio is the eighth sign of the Zodiac and associated with intensity, passion, and power. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a complex, analytical, patient, keenly perceptive, inquisitive, focused, determined, hypnotic, and self-contained character, but one which is also prone to extremity, jealousy, envy, secretiveness, possessiveness, cruelty and cunning. In terms of anatomy,

***Positive***

Determined and forceful   
Emotional and intuitive   
Powerful and passionate   
Exciting and magnetic

***Negative***

Jealous and resentful   
Compulsive and obsessive   
Secretive and obstinate

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Sagittarius / November 22 - December 21**

Sagittarius is the ninth sign of the Zodiac and associated with travel and expansion. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a straight-forward, dynamic, highly intelligent, extremely clever, ethical, humorous, generous, open-hearted, compassionate, and energetic character, but one which is also prone to restlessness, impulsiveness, impatience, recklessness, and kiddishness.

***Positive***

Optimistic and freedom-loving   
Jovial and good-humored   
Honest and straightforward   
Intellectual and philosophical

***Negative***

Blindly optimistic and careless   
Irresponsible and superficial   
Tactless and restless

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Capricorn / December 22 - January 19**

Capricorn is the tenth sign of the Zodiac and associated with hard work and business affairs. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have an ambitious, modest, patient, responsible, stable, trustworthy, powerful, intellectual, perspicacious and persistent character but one which is also prone to coldness, conservatism, rigidity, materialism, and dullness.

***Positive***

Practical and prudent  
Ambitious and disciplined   
Patient and careful   
Humorous and reserved

***Negative***

Pessimistic and fatalistic   
Miserly and grudging

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Aquarius / January 20 - February 18**

Aquarius is the eleventh sign of the Zodiac and associated with future ideas and the unusual. Individuals born under this sign are thought to have a modest, creative, challenging, inquisitive, entertaining, progressive, stimulating, nocturnal, and independent character, but one which is also prone to rebelliousness, coldness, erraticism, indecisive, and impracticality.

***Positive***

Friendly and humanitarian   
Honest and loyal   
Original and inventive  
Independent and intellectual

***Negative***

Intractable and contrary   
Perverse and unpredictable   
Unemotional and detached

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not:

**Pisces / February 19 - March 20**

Pisces is the twelfth and last sign of the Zodiac and associated with human emotions. Individuals born under this sign are thought to be tolerant, modest, dreamy, romantic, humorous, generous, emotional, receptive, affectionate, and have an honest character, but are also prone to exaggeration, fickleness, passiveness, hypersensitivity, and paranoia.

***Positive***

Imaginative and sensitive   
Compassionate and kind   
Selfless and unworldly   
Intuitive and sympathetic

***Negative***

Escapist and idealistic   
Secretive and vague   
Weak-willed and easily led

***Which three traits do you think are true about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am:
* I am:
* I am:

***Which two traits do you think are false about you? Please list and give a reason for each.***

* I am not:
* I am not: